

ABRAMS INSTITUTE FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Yale Law School

November 22, 2021

Scott Harris, Clerk Supreme Court of the United States One First Street, NE Washington, DC 20543

RE: No. 21-659 Asociación de Periodistas de Puerto Rico v. Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, et al. Rule 12.6 Statement

Dear Clerk Harris:

Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 12.6, I hereby notify the Court that Miguel Ocasio Santiago, party to the proceedings below, has no direct interest in the outcome of the above-captioned petition and is not a proper party in this proceeding. Out of an abundance of caution, petitioner named him as respondent and served him with the petition for writ of *certiorari* because he was a party to the underlying proceedings, but he is not a necessary or proper party here.

The petition challenges orders by the Puerto Rican courts denying press access to the official recordings of civil and criminal proceedings involving Mr. Ocasio Santiago. Mr. Ocasio Santiago did not participate in the proceedings below and is now deceased. Therefore, neither he nor his next of kin has an ongoing privacy interest in whether the recordings of the court proceedings are available to the public, the relief sought by petitioner.¹

This is also to provide notice that Rubén Parrilla, who filed a motion on Mr. Ocasio Santiago's behalf in the civil matter at issue in this petition, refused to accept service of the petition. I am attempting, through Mr. Parrilla, and via other means, to identify Mr. Santiago's next of kin for purposes of providing a courtesy copy of the petition.

Very truly yours,

/s/ David A. Schulz David A. Schulz Counsel of Record for Petitioner Asociación de Periodistas de Puerto Rico

cc: Fernando Figuero Santiago, Counsel for Respondent Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (fernando.figueroa@justicia.pr.gov)

¹ Respondent Andrea Cristina Ruiz Costas, also a party to the proceedings below, is also deceased. But her parents, as her next of kin, participated below and have indicated their intent to file a brief in support of *certiorari*.



Luis José Torres Asencio, Counsel for Alfonso Ruiz Perez and Olga E. Costas Rodriguez, next-of-kin to Respondent Andrea Cristina Ruiz Costas (ltorres@juris.inter.edu)

Ruben Parrilla, Counsel for Miguel Ocasio Santiago (raparrilla@salpr.org)